

Conservation Activity Evaluation Tool

CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

CSP-2017-1_MT - Ag Land_Associated Ag Land

Soil Erosion

Sheet and Rill Erosion

Planning Criteria	Planning Criteria Met	
Screening level: Permanent ground cover $> 90\%$ and slope $< 10\%$. Assessment level: The water erosion rate is $<=$ T.	Yes	No
Evaluation Tests	Evaluation To	est Met
All temporary or permanent rills and gullies are stabilized. All areas expected to have high erosion rates are stable.	Yes	No
Wind Erosion		
Planning Criteria	Planning Crit	eria Met
Screening level: Permanent ground cover $> 90\%$ and slope $< 10\%$. Assessment level: The wind erosion rate is $<=$ T.	Yes	No
Evaluation Tests	Evaluation To	est Met
All temporary or permanent rills and gullies are stabilized. All areas expected to have high erosion rates are stable.	Yes	No
Classic Gully Erosion		
Planning Criteria	Planning Crit	eria Met
Screening level: Classic gullies are not present. Assessment level: Classic gully management is adequate to stop the progression of head cutting and widening and are offsite impacts are minimized by vegetation and/or structures.	Yes	No
Evaluation Tests	Evaluation Test Met	
All temporary or permanent rills and gullies are stabilized. All areas expected to have high erosion rates are stable.	Yes	No



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<u>CSP-2017-1_MT - Ag Land_Associated Ag Land</u> <u>Streambank, Shoreline, Water Conveyance Channels</u>

Planning Criteria	Planning Cr	riteria Met
Screening level: Streams, shoreline or channels are not adjacent to site. Assessment level: For shorelines and water conveyance channels; banks are stable or commensurate with normal geomorphological processes, AND if bank erosion is present, it is beyond the client's control or commensurate with normal geomorphological processes, AND for streambanks, SVAP2 bank condition element score > 5.	Yes	No
Evaluation Tests	Evaluation '	Test Met
Excluding all fundamentally unstable, natural geomorphic streambanks/shorelines, all streambanks/shorelines on the operation show few signs of erosion or bank failure. Each is stable and protected with natural materials.	Yes	No



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Water Quality Degradation

Nutrients in Surface Water

	Planning Criteria	Planning Crit	eria Met
	Screening level: Organic or inorganic nutrients are not applied AND the PLU is not grazed AND there are no confined livestock areas. Assessment level: Nutrients if applied, are based on a soil test, tissue tests or nutrient budget AND conservation practices and managements are in place to minimize surface water impacts.	Yes	No
	Evaluation Tests	Evaluation Te	est Met
	The land adjacent to a stream, river, or other waterbody on the side or sides you control does: - have diverse, natural plant cover typical to that along streams in your area, - extend from the stream bank/shoreline for a distance of 35 feet or (if applicable) the minimum State buffer-width requirement, whichever is greater, AND - have few places where concentrated runoff flows through.	Yes	No
<u>Pe</u>	etroleum, Heavy Metal and Other Pollutants Transported	to Surface W	<u>ater</u>
Pe	etroleum, Heavy Metal and Other Pollutants Transported to Planning Criteria	to Surface W Planning Crit	
Pe			
Pe	Planning Criteria Screening level: Activities do not present the potential for contamination by petroleum, heavy metals and other pollutants. Assessment level: Petroleum, heavy metals or other potential	Planning Crit	eria Met



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<u>CSP-2017-1_MT - Ag Land_Associated Ag Land</u> <u>Petroleum, Heavy Metal and Other Pollutants Transported to Ground Water</u>

	Planning Criteria	Planning Crit	eria Met
	Screening level: Activities do not present the potential for contamination by petroleum, heavy metals and other pollutants. Assessment level: Petroleum, heavy metals or other potential pollutants are stored and handled to avoid runoff to groundwater.	Yes	No
	Evaluation Tests	Evaluation Te	st Met
	The fuel storage area and tank is located: - above the 100-year floodplain, - a minimum of 100 feet from any river, stream, ditch, pond, lake, sinkhole, wetland, or water well, and - within a stable place designed to provide secondary containment if the primary means were to fail.	Yes	No
<u>Ex</u>	cessive Sediment in Surface Water		
	Planning Criteria	Planning Crite	eria Met
	Screening level: Permanent ground cover $>$ 90% and slope $<$ 10% AND classic gullies are not present AND streams or shoreline are not on or adjacent to site. Assessment level: Upslope treatment and buffer practices address concentrated flows to water bodies AND the SVAP2 - bank condition $>=$ 5 AND the livestock and vehicle water crossings are stable AND The water erosion rate is $<=$ T AND wind erosion rate is $<=$ T.	Yes	No
	Evaluation Tests	Evaluation Te	st Met
	The land adjacent to a stream, river, or other waterbody on the side or sides you control does: - have diverse, natural plant cover typical to that along streams in your area, - extend from the stream bank/shoreline for a distance of 35 feet or (if applicable) the minimum State buffer-width requirement, whichever is greater, AND - have few places where concentrated runoff flows through.	Yes	No
	All temporary or permanent rills and gullies are stabilized. All areas expected to have high erosion rates are stable.	Yes	No



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Elevated Water Temperature

Planning Criteria	Planning Criteria Met	Criteria Met	
Screening level: Water courses on or adjacent to the designated by a State Agency as a temperature improved temperature is not a client concern. Assess SVAP2 - riparian area quality element score is >= - riparian area quantity quality element score is >= - canopy cover element score is >= 6, OR existing practices are in place to address water temperature	pairment OR water ment level: The 5 AND the SVAP2 5 AND the SVAP2 conservation		
Evaluation Tests	Evaluation Test Met		
More than 50 percent of the water surface is shade the stream/river you control.	d on the length of Yes No		



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Air Quality Impacts

Emissions of Particulate Matter (PM) and PM Precursors

	Planning Criteria	Planning Crit	eria Met
	Screening level: Activities are not present that contribute to agricultural source PM or PM precursor emissions AND episodes or complaints of emissions of PM (dust, smoke, exhaust, etc.), or chemical drift have not occurred. PM producing activity examples are: Prescribed Burn is conducted, Travel ways unpaved or treated with binding agents, Engines (combustion source), Tillage, Pesticides are applied, Fertilization (manure/ commercial), CAFO/manure management). Assessment level: PM and PM Precursor emmissions are managed to meet client objectives.	Yes	No
	Evaluation Tests	Evaluation Te	est Met
	Dust is controlled on all non-vegetated, unpaved travel ways.	Yes	No 🗌
<u>En</u>	nission of Greenhouse Gases (GHGs)		
	Planning Criteria	Planning Crit	eria Met
	Screening level: Activities are not present that produce GHGs emissions. GHG producing activities are: Fertilization(manure/commercial), CAFO/manure management, Engines (combustion source), Tillage, AND GHGs are not regulated	Yes	No
	in this planning area. Assessment level: Greenhouse gas emmissions are managed to meet client objectives.		
	in this planning area. Assessment level: Greenhouse gas emmissions	Evaluation Te	est Met



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Degraded Plant Condition

Undesirable Plant Productivity and Health

Planning	g Criteria	Planning Criteria Met	
Assessm and do n	g level: Plant production and health is not a client concern. ent level: Plants are adapted to the site, meet production goals ot negatively impact other resources AND plant damage from sion is below Crop Damage Tolerance levels.		No
Evaluati	on Tests	Evaluation Te	est Met
site, has beneath, made up undesiral complete health.	st or woodlot is fully stocked with tree species adapted to the spacing for good tree growth and air flow between and does not have excessive tree mortality, has an understory of desirable species and is not inhibited by brush or other ple vegetation. Monitoring for Insects and disease is ad to prevent outbreaks that would be detrimental to forest	Yes	No
<u>Inadequat</u>	e Structure and Composition		
Planning	g Criteria	Planning Crit	eria Met
desired e contain a	g level: Plant communities support the intended land use and cological functions. Assessment level: Plant communities dequate diversity, composition and structure to support cological functions.	Yes	No
Evaluati	on Tests	Evaluation Te	est Met
The curre	ent plants provide the desired habitat structure and tion.	Yes	No 🗌



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Excessive Plant Pest Pressure

Planning Criteria	Planning Criteria Met	
Screening level: Plant productivity is not limited from pest pressure. Assessment level: Pest damage to plants are below economic or environmental thresholds or client-identified criteria AND plant pests, including noxious and invasive species are managed to meet client objectives.	Yes	No
Evaluation Tests	Evaluation Te	est Met
Invasive and noxious weeds are controlled or not present.	Yes	No 🗌
Wildfire Hazard, Excessive Biomass Accumulation		
Planning Criteria	Planning Crit	eria Met
Screening level: Wildfire hazards is not a concern. Assessment level: Fuel loads and fuel ladders are managed to provide defensible space and meet client objectives.	Yes	No 🗌
Evaluation Tests	Evaluation To	est Met
Fire risk to sensitive sites are controlled by treatment, removal or modification of vegetation, debris and detritus in a strip or area.	Yes	No 🗌



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Fish and Wildlife - Inadequate Habitat

Inadequate Habitat - Food

Planning Criteria	Planning Criteria Met	
Assessment level: The WHSI rating is >= 0.5 AND (when surface stream present) the SVAP2 - fish habitat complexity element score is >= 7 AND the SVAP2 - aquatic invertebrate habitat element score is >= 7, OR conservation practices and managements are in place that meet or exceed species or guild-specific habitat model thresholds, OR food is available in quality and extent to support habitat requirements for the species of interest.	Yes	No
Evaluation Tests	Evaluation T	est Met
Designated areas are planted as food and habitat for pollinators/beneficial insects. For example, planted to nectar and pollen producing plants and protected from disruptionchemical, biological, or mechanical.	Yes	No
The land adjacent to a stream, river, or other waterbody on the side or sides you control does: - have diverse, natural plant cover typical to that along streams in your area, AND - extend from the stream bank/shoreline for a distance of 35 feet or (if applicable) the minimum State buffer-width requirement, whichever is greater	Yes	No



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Inadequate Habitat - Cover/Shelter

Planning Criteria	Planning Crit	teria Met
Assessment level: The WHSI rating is >= 0.5 AND (when surface stream present) the SVAP2 - barriers to movement element score is >= 7 AND the SVAP2 - fish habitat complexity element score is >= 7 AND the SVAP2 - aquatic invertebrate habitat element score is >= 7, OR conservation practices and managements are in place that meet or exceed species or guild-specific habitat model thresholds, OR cover is of available quality and extent to support habitat requirements for the species of interest.	Yes	No
Evaluation Tests	Evaluation T	est Met
Designated areas are planted as food and habitat for pollinators/beneficial insects. For example, planted to nectar and pollen producing plants and protected from disruptionchemical, biological, or mechanical.	Yes	No
The pond/lake, which supports a natural or planted fish population, is managed: -to exclude livestock, -to control nuisance species and undesirable aquatic vegetation controlled, -to complies with state and local regulations when stocking the pond, AND -use of a buffer zone of diverse, natural plant cover at least 35 feet wide.	Yes	No
All stream banks show few signs of erosion or bank failure. Each is stable and protected with natural materials.	Yes	No
Plant growth provides cover/shelter that benefits threatened, endagered, or declining wildlife species. <see action="" plan="" state="" wildlife=""></see>	Yes	No 🗌
Dead and/or down trees are intentionally left in the forest to provide wildlife cover.	Yes	No
Large, old, and/or "wolf" trees are intentionally retained in the forest to provide wildlife shelter. For example, trees with gnarled appearance, loose bark, or cavities.	Yes	No



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Inadequate Habitat - Water

Planning Criteria	Planning Criteria M	
Assessment level: The WHSI rating is >= 0.5 AND (when surface stream present) the SVAP2 - aquatic invertebrate habitat element score is >= 7, OR conservation practices and managements are in place that meet or exceed species or guild-specific habitat model thresholds, OR water is available in quality and extent to support habitat requirements for the species of interest.	Yes	No
Evaluation Tests	Evaluation T	Cest Met
Access to water is at the right height, depth and time of year for wildlife species.	Yes	No



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CSP-2017-1_MT - Ag Land_Associated Ag Land **Inadequate Habitat - Habitat Continuity (Space)**

Planning Criteria	Planning Cri	teria Met
Assessment level: The WHSI rating is >= 0.5 AND (when surface stream present) the SVAP2 - barriers to movement element score is >= 7 AND the SVAP2 - aquatic invertebrate habitat element score is >= 7, OR conservation practices and managements are in place that meet or exceed species or guild-specific habitat model thresholds, OR The connectivity of habitat components are adequate to support stable populations of targeted species.	Yes	No
Evaluation Tests	Evaluation T	est Met
Designated areas are planted as habitat for pollinators/beneficial insects. Non-cropped area protected from disruption during nesting and foraging periodschemical, biological, or mechanical.	Yes	No
In-stream structures (dam, diversion structure, bridge, culvert, low-water stream crossing, etc.) allow for the upstream/downstream movement of fish and other aquatic animals throughout most of the year.	Yes	No
People, vehicles, equipment, or livestock are only moved across a stream/river at a bridge, culvert, or stabilized ford crossing(s). Travel across the stream/river beyond these crossings is controlled.	Yes	No
Connectivity between food resources and cover and shelter is provided for the chosen wildlife species, <see action="" plan="" state="" wildlife=""></see>	Yes	No 🗌



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Inefficient Energy Use

Equipment and Facilities

Planning Criteria	Planning Criteria Met		
Screening level: Client is not interested in improving equipment and facilities energy efficiency. Assessment level: Major components of a USDA approved energy audit have been implemented that address equipment and facilities to meet client objectives OR On-farm renewable energy and/or energy conserving practices have been implemented to meet client objectives.	Yes	No	
Evaluation Tests	Evaluation Test Met		
Recommendations/components of an energy audit have been applied. The audit addressed equipment and facilities on the farm. For example, energy loss from lighting, drying, refrigeration, heating, or building insulation have been improved.	Yes	No	
Renewable energy systems are applied. For example, solar, wind,	Yes 🗌	No 🗌	



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<u>CSP-2017-1_MT - Ag Land_Associated Ag Land</u> <u>Farming/Ranching Practices and Field Operations</u>

Planning Criteria	Planning Criteria Met		
Screening level: Client is not interested in improving equipment and facilities energy efficiency. Assessment level: Major components of a USDA approved energy audit have been implemented that address equipment and facilities to meet client objectives OR On-farm renewable energy and/or energy conserving practices have been implemented to meet client objectives.	Yes	No	
Evaluation Tests	Evaluation Test Met		
Recommendations/components of an energy audit have been applied. The audit addressed equipment and facilities on the farm. For example, energy loss from lighting, drying, refrigeration, heating, or	Yes	No	
building insulation have been improved.			